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BIOLOGICAL SURVEY BELIEVES
IN CONSERVING FUR SUPPLY

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Resolutions were drawn up at the recent International Fur Convention and Exposition at New York, recommending for the first time in the history of the fur trade the formation of a national organization which should hold a yearly convention in that city. The Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture has been greatly interested in the fur industry from the standpoint of the conservation of wild life, and F. G. Ashbrook, one of its representatives, addressed the convention on the work of the Survey relating to fur-bearing animals.

"The fur industry," said Mr. Ashbrook, "employs many thousands of men and women who make their living from furs and who in turn contribute to the comfort of a vast number of people. Ever since the world began people have worn furs and they will probably continue to do so indefinitely. The sources of supply of fur-bearing animals should be assured, however, if the fur trade is to maintain its position among other large industries. We do not need more laws but we need better laws and a stricter enforcement of them.

"The Biological Survey believes that fur farming should be encouraged. At present the majority of fur farmers are raising silver foxes. There are at least 15,000 silver foxes in captivity and the investment in the business exceeds \$8,000,000.

"The bureau also believes that to aid conservation, areas which have been depleted of fur bearers should be closed completely for several years.

and should be restocked, just as public and private waters are stocked with fish, or game preserves with game.

"Fur laws should be made uniform in all States where similar climatic conditions prevail. Regulation by law of the open season and intelligent trapping should help materially to insure the source and continued supply of fur bearers. Legislation ~~should~~ also require that figures be furnished to show the numbers of the various pelts taken annually in different States."

The fur exposition, which was held in Madison Square Garden, was staged in an arctic setting composed of igloos, totem poles, snow and icebergs. Living models were posed to show the fur costumes of fourteen different periods in the world's history. Processes in preparing furs and making them up into garments were shown, and a style show was staged. The exposition was open only to those engaged in the fur trade, but there was a strong sentiment on the part of those in charge that another time it should be open to the general public.